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CONSIDERATION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO ENHANCE THE PROTECTION, SECURITY AND SAFETY OF DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR MISSIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

CONTENTS

		Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	3
II.	REPORTS RECEIVED FROM STATES PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 10 OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 49/49	3
	A. Analytical summary of the reports	3
	B. Text of the reports	3
	1. Note verbale from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General	3
	2. Note verbale from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General	6

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CONTENTS (continued)

Page

III. VIEWS RECEIVED FROM STATES PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 11 OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 42/154 6

Text of the reports 6

1. Note verbale from the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General 6

2. Note verbale from the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General 7

I. INTRODUCTION

1. During the period from 26 July 1996 to 1 October 1996, two reports were submitted pursuant to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 49/49 of 9 December 1994. In addition, Denmark reported that no violations had occurred in the past year.

2. Two States submitted views pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 42/154 of 7 December 1987. The text of the communications are to be found in section III below.

II. REPORTS RECEIVED FROM STATES PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 10 OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 49/49

A. Analytical summary of the reports

3. The reports contained in the present addendum concern attacks on diplomatic and consular premises. Turkey reported on attacks on its Consulate General premises in several locations in Greece during 1996, as well as on earlier attacks on diplomatic representatives in Athens. The United Kingdom reported on attacks against the Nigerian High Commission in London and provided further information on a bomb attack against the Israeli Embassy in London in 1995.

B. Text of the reports

1. Note verbale from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General 1/

[Original: English]

[29 August 1996]

The Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations ... has the honour to inform the Secretary-General, in accordance with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 49/49 and paragraph 9 (a) of Assembly resolution 42/154, of the following serious violations of the protection, security and safety of Turkish diplomatic and consular missions and representatives in Greece, which took place from 12 to 18 August 1996.

12 August 1996:

Insulting slogans were sprayed on the outer wall circling the premises of the Turkish Consulate General in Salonica. In response to official Turkish representations, the graffiti were erased by the Greek police on the same day.

14 August 1996:

A group of 40 Greek Cypriots held demonstrations at 6.30 p.m. before the Turkish Consulate General in Salonica. Contrary to previous security practices,

the Greek police allowed the mob to come as close as 15 metres from the Consulate. Encouraged by this practice, the fanatics attacked one of the Consulate's official cars. The Consulate personnel have been harassed, insulted, followed and threatened by the mob. The Greek security forces seemingly condoned these incidents and merely looked on as they were occurring.

16 August 1996:

A mob of about 200, carrying banners and flags, arrived at the Turkish Consulate General in Rhodes at 2 p.m., started hurling stones at the Consulate building, damaged the shutters, broke the windows and threw a burning material inside the garden. The mob also threw a black coffin into the garden. A group furthermore dashed into the yard and ripped off the coat of arms of the Consulate. While the attacks were ongoing, Iannopoulos, the Mayor of Rhodes, was seen watching the incident.

At 7 p.m., a mob of 280, which was gathered at the Panagiya Church by Damaskinos, the Archbishop of Morenia, by sounding church bells, moved to the Turkish Consulate General in Komotini and burned a Turkish flag they brought along. Exploiting the laxity of the Greek police, a group among the mob attempted to storm the Consulate by climbing over the security fence in order to pull down the Turkish flag. First, they were repelled by the Turkish personnel at the Consulate but then, upon a second attack, the mob managed to storm the Consulate, pull down the Turkish flag and burn it. During the attacks, the coat of arms was ripped off, some windows shattered, and vehicles parked in the driveway, belonging to the Turkish officials, were damaged. A Molotov cocktail was hurled at the Consulate building, but it did not explode.

18 August 1996:

Early in the morning, the Turkish flag, flying in front of the Consulate General in Komotini, was ripped off from the mast before the eyes of the Greek police.

As mentioned in the above cases, these deplorable attacks, which took place with the participation and involvement of some local officials and most unfortunately some Greek religious leaders, were not the first attempts against the security and safety of Turkish diplomatic and consular missions and representatives in Greece. These incidents, when assessed against the background of more ominous and deadly attacks perpetrated against Turkish Missions in Greece in recent years, will underline the gravity of the permanent threat to which those representatives are exposed.

The most recent murder of a Turkish diplomat took place on 4 July 1994 (A/49/295, sect. II.B, No. 13, p. 27). Mr. Ömer Haluk Sipahioğlu, Counsellor of the Turkish Embassy in Athens, was assassinated in front of his residence, while starting his car.

On 7 October 1991, Mr. Çetin Görgü, Deputy Press Attaché of the Turkish Embassy in Athens, was also murdered, in his car, in front of his residence.

On 16 July 1991, Mr. Deniz Bölükbaşi, Chargé d'affaires of the Turkish Embassy in Athens, and Ms. Nilgün Keçeli, Administrative Attaché of the Embassy, were severely wounded in a remote-controlled bomb attack against the official service vehicle of the Embassy (A/47/325, sect. II.B, No. 16, para. 32).

Bombs were detonated under several cars belonging to the staff of the Turkish Embassy in Greece, on the eve of the Turkish Foreign Minister's working visit to Athens in 1988.

On 31 July 1980, Mr. Galip Özmen, the Administrative Attaché of the Turkish Embassy in Athens, and his daughter were assassinated.

It is to be noted that not a single person has ever been accused, let alone convicted. Turkish authorities were not informed of the outcome of the investigation carried out in connection with those murders.

The Government of Turkey strongly condemns the recent acts of violence against its diplomatic and consular missions in Greece.

The Government of Turkey is alarmed by the repetitive nature of these acts of violence, which have taken innocent lives and violated the security and safety of Turkish diplomatic and consular missions and representatives in Greece. Turkey is concerned by the failure of the Greek Government and authorities to protect the inviolability of its diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

The Government of Turkey urges the Government of Greece to take all necessary measures to prevent such actions of violence and enhance the protection, security and safety of the diplomatic and consular missions and representatives in Greece. The Government of Turkey further appeals to the Government of Greece to comply with its obligations under the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, the 1973 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons including Diplomatic Agents and other relevant international instruments.

The Government of Turkey finally expresses its hope that the perpetrators of these heinous crimes would be brought to justice by the Greek authorities and that due reporting thereof would be made in accordance with paragraph 9 (b) of General Assembly resolution 42/154.

The Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations hereby requests that this information be circulated to all Member States in accordance with paragraph 10 (a) of resolution 42/154. The Permanent Representative of Turkey also requests that the procedure envisaged in paragraph 10 (b) of the same resolution be applied and that this information be included in the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in accordance with paragraph 12 of resolution 42/154 and paragraph 11 of resolution 49/49.

2. Note verbale from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General 2/

[Original: English]

[22 August 1996]

The Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations ... has the honour to refer to the Secretary-General's note LA/COD/4 of 27 December 1995 concerning General Assembly resolution 49/49. The following report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 10 of the above-mentioned resolution.

1. On 31 October 1995, a demonstration of 30 people took place outside the Nigerian High Commission in London. Paint was thrown at the building and one window was broken. Some demonstrators climbed onto the portico and three others chained themselves to the building. Metropolitan Police controlled the situation and detained six demonstrators.

2. On 7 November 1995, a crowd of about 20 people approached the Nigerian High Commission in London. Several protestors chained themselves to the building while others climbed up onto the portico. Metropolitan Police took control of the situation and detained six protestors.

3. Further to his report of 28 June 1995 on the bomb attack on the Israeli Embassy in London which took place on 26 July 1994, the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom has the honour to inform that four persons will be committed to trial in London on 1 October 1996 in connection with this incident. Investigations will continue.

III. VIEWS RECEIVED FROM STATES PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 11 OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 42/154

Text of the reports

1. Note verbale from the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English]

[10 July 1996]

The Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations ... with reference to the Secretary-General's note LA/COD/4 dated 27 December 1995, has the honour to submit the following report pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/49.

...

It should be pointed out that the Danish police authorities continuously evaluate security conditions as related to foreign diplomatic and consular missions and representatives in Denmark. These evaluations form the basis of security measures to be adopted with respect to the individual diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

2. Note verbale from the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

[25 July 1996]

The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations ... with reference to the Secretary-General's note LA/COD/4 dated 27 December 1995 regarding General Assembly resolution 49/49, has the honour to submit the relevant information requested by the Secretary-General.

Qatar attaches great importance to the security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and is committed to ensuring the protection and safety of their personnel. To that end, it has taken a number of security measures. A district in the city of Doha has been designated for embassies, diplomatic missions and the diplomatic corps. It is well away from heavily populated areas and enhanced security measures have been put into effect there. In addition, the organizational structure of the Ministry of the Interior provides for a security department whose functions include guarding and ensuring the security of premises occupied by the diplomatic corps and by international and regional organizations accredited to the country. The State of Qatar is also a party to the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

Notes

1/ Transmitted to the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations by a note verbale dated 18 September 1996 and circulated to all States under cover of a note verbale from the Secretary-General dated 30 September 1996.

2/ Transmitted to the Permanent Representatives of Israel and Nigeria to the United Nations by notes verbales dated 28 August 1996 and circulated to all States under cover of a note verbale from the Secretary-General dated 10 September 1996.